(b) if so, why the physical verifications of all the detained wagons was done without informing tie consignors to whom permission was granted; and

(c) whether any rule or guideline was prescribed for revalidation of Transit passes and imposition of Hammer marks by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) As per Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 15-1-1998, transportation of auctioned timber (as well as legal timber) including s<iwn timber outside the North-Eastem Region was done only through RailwEiy Wagons under the strict supervision of the Forest Department.

(b) Based on the information gathered the physical verifications of about 200 wagons loaded with timber were carried out. In the physical verification and subsequent investigation these wagons were found to be carrying illegal timber a id timber without requisite hammer mark. These wagons were being transported on invalid/fake/altered transit passes. After issuing of Show Cause Notice to the consignor and personal hearing, decisions in respect of these wagons have been taken.

(c) In exercise of powers vested with the Ministry of Environment and Forests as per Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 13-1-2000, detailed guidelines to regulate the movement of timber from North-Eastern States have been issued by the Ministry and the special Investigating Team from time to time.

Bamboo for traditional users

4387. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) to what extent Government have interacted with State Governments to ensure that there is a proper supply of bamboo to traditional bamboo users;

(b) details of such specific interactions with State Governments on requests of NGOs and others;

(c) the outcome of such talks and discussions;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have lost interest in such matters; and

(e) if so, what steps are proposed to revive interest in this aspect of forest promotion.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) The Government have interacted with the Principal Chief Conservators of forests of bamboo-bearing States and requested them to submit project proposal for bamboo development in the States to ensure proper supply of bamboo to traditional bamboo users.

(b) and (c) No requests have been received from NGOs for specific interaction with State Governments.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The proposals received from 16 States have been posed before Planning Commission for funding.

Inspection of pollution emanating Factories

†4388. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Pollution Control Board have conducted on the spot inspection of certain environmental pollution spreading factories/mills in various States particularly in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, State-wise and location-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have received any report with regard to all these factories/mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), during the year 2002-2003, has carried out 166 inspections of polluting industries including six in Jharkhand State, State-wise list indicating number of units inspected is enclosed as Statement. *(See below)*

(c) Based on inspections reports, CPCB has directed the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) to take necessary action to ensure installation of required pollution control measures in the concerned industries.

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†Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.